

## VIRGINIA PHILLIPS



Rep. Ken Calvert welcomes Judge Virginia Phillips to Washington, D.C., for her nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Congressman was the only Member of Congress to testify on Judge Phillips' behalf, and she was confirmed only two weeks later.

On November 10, 1999, Virginia Phillips was confirmed as the United States District Court Judge for the Central District of California. I had the honor of testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of Judge Phillips on October 26th. Judge Phillips received tremendous bi-partisan support from the Inland Empire community, where she has served as a California State Judicial Officer and as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Central District Court in California.

The Central District of California is composed of over 18 million people, with more than three million people in the Eastern Division – the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, California.

The Eastern Division is in critical need of a second district court judge and I asked the Committee to confirm Judge Phillips to fill this need. Our Eastern Division's one district judge is faced with such a staggering caseload that the overflow of cases are sent to the Western Division each month. The result is a large number of litigants,

witnesses, lawyers and law enforcement officers having to travel to Los Angeles on some of the most congested roads in the United States.

After a woefully long delay, I am thrilled that the U.S. Senate recognized Judge Phillips' overwhelming qualifications to fill this federal court position before the end of the year. It was a pleasure to testify on her behalf and we welcome Judge Phillips to her new position as District Court Judge for the Central District of California.

## PIERCE'S DISEASE

On November 12, 1999, I welcomed Under Secretary Mike Dunn of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to tour the vineyards of the Temecula Valley that have been ravaged by Pierce's Disease. Pierce's Disease, spread by the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter vector, kills the grape vine and presently has no known cure.

In our own Riverside County, the City of Temecula's wine industry has already suffered an estimated \$6 million in losses this year. Approximately 3,000 acres of wine grapes, planted since 1967, may be wiped-out if nothing is done to halt the spread of the disease.

To educate other California Members of Congress, I hosted Dr. Rick Redak from the University of California at Riverside to Washington on October 28, 1999. Early next year, I intend to chair a joint field hearing in California with the House Agriculture Committee and the Wine Caucus.

### Funding to Fight Pierce's Disease

#### Federal Funding:

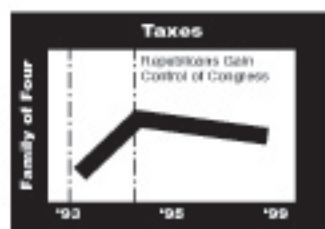
- FY99 \$100,000 research dollars to UCR
- FY00 Language directing the Secretary of Agriculture to spend such sums as needed to fight Pierce's Disease
- FY00 \$360,000 to be utilized in the City of Temecula

#### State and Local Funding:

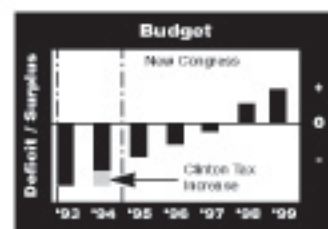
- \$250,000 from City of Temecula & Riverside County for research and mitigation
- \$750,000 for three years by State of California for research and mitigation

## AIR QUALITY REVIEW STUDY

I am happy to report the inclusion of \$2 million in the FY2000 VA/HUD Appropriations Act (Public Law 106-74) for an Air Quality Review Study to be conducted by the National Research Council. This legislation directs the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council to study how the Clean Air Act can be better implemented. The request stemmed from a Regional Air Quality Summit I helped organize over a year ago (August 21, 1998). Participants included business, academic and community leaders from across the Inland Empire as well as the EPA and other Members of Congress from the region. The meeting revolved around local, state and federal clean air regulations. At the conclusion of the summit, I promised to work for a National Research Council task force to study how these three sets of often overlapping regulations could be streamlined in order to clean our air in a more effective and cost-efficient manner. Specifically, the study will address how the EPA can better coordinate its efforts with state and local officials. I believe we can have clean air and a healthy economy – in fact, these issues should go hand-in-hand. The study, which is expected to take two years, will finally enable us to reach both goals for Riverside County and the nation.



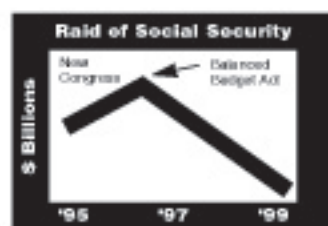
Source: Congressional Budget Office



Source: Office of Management and Budget



Source: U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services



Source: Congressional Budget Office



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Official Business

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M.C.

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## Business Newsletter